

TOWN WINS NINTH CONSECUTIVE BUDGET AWARD

For the ninth consecutive year, the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association, a professional association representing nearly 17,000 state and municipal finance officers in the United States and Canada.

The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award Program encourages governments to prepare budget documents of the highest quality to meet the needs of decision-makers and citizens. The Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program, established in 1984, is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

The Town's ninth award was presented to Town Manager Esther Colon for her work in preparing the 2005-06 budget. Colon was the Town's Finance Director prior to recently taking over as Town Manager.

"The award represents a significant achievement," said Stephen Gauthier, a GFOA spokesman. "It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

"In order to receive the budget award, the municipality had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation," he added. "These guidelines are designed to assess how well a city's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guideline and a communications device. Budget documents must be rated proficient in all four categories to receive the award."